

Application No.: 10/578,308
Attorney Docket No.: 062490
Response under 37 CFR §1.111

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hashimoto et al (US 2006/0154041 A1). Applicants traverse.

Applicants respectfully point out to the Examiner that Hashimoto et al. is improperly cited as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). That is, Hashimoto et al does not have a 35 U.S.C. §102(e) date, since the international application -- on which Hashimoto is based on -- was filed after November 29, 2000 and was not published in English. See MPEP §706.02f(1). Specifically, PCT/JP2003/015748 (Hashimoto) was filed on December 9, 2003 and was published in Japanese on June 24, 2004 as WO 2004/053579.

Additionally, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) based on Hashimoto et al is also improper. Specifically, the International Publication of Hashimoto et al was made on June 24, 2004, which is after the priority date (November 6, 2003) of the PCT application of this application (i.e., the filing date of the basic Japanese patent application).

Applicants further note that the subject matter claimed in claims 1-6 of the present application is same as the subject matter claimed in the claims 1-6 of the basic Japanese application (priority application), as originally filed. As such, Applicants have attached a certified English translation of the priority document with this paper. Applicants submit that the

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certified English translation of the priority document overcomes the rejection and request that it be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito (WO 03/081322 A2) in view of Sadao (JP 11-002812). Applicants traverse.

Claim 1 reads: *A laminated film comprising, a resin sheet having a cured resin layer containing glass cloth and a polarizing plate laminated on the resin sheet, in which any one of weft yarn and warp yarn of the glass cloth is oriented at an angle of 5 degrees or less relative to an absorption axis of the polarizing plate.*

Ito (WO 03/081322 A2)

Ito discloses a polarizing plate including a polymer film, a polarizer, a polymer substrate and an optically anisotropic layer containing liquid crystal, as pointed out by the Examiner. However, Ito neither teaches nor suggests that a resin sheet includes a cured resin layer containing glass cloth, and never discloses that any one of weft yarn and warp yarn of the glass cloth is oriented at an angle of 5 degrees or less relative to an absorption axis of the polarizing plate.

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Sadao (JP 11-002812)

As pointed out by the Examiner, Sadao discloses a LCD comprising a layer of glass cloth impregnated with resin. However, Sadao neither teaches nor suggests that any one of weft yarn and warp yarn of the glass cloth is oriented at an angle of 5 degrees or less relative to an absorption axis of the polarizing plate.

Comparison between the invention of claim 1 and each of the cited references

The invention of claim 1 of this application is different from any one of Ito and Sadao in that any one of weft yarn and warp yarn of the glass cloth is oriented at an angle of 5 degrees or less relative to an absorption axis of the polarizing plate.

Evaluation of different points

Ito and Sadao individually or in combination fail to disclose *any one of weft yarn and warp yarn of the glass cloth is oriented at an angle of 5 degrees or less relative to an absorption axis of the polarizing plate*. In addition, Ito and Sadao do not provide any motivation to employ the aforesaid structural feature. Accordingly, a person skilled in the art would not be motivated to achieve the invention of claim 1 based on the inventions of Ito and Sadao.

Furthermore, the laminated film claimed in claim 1 of this application having the above structural feature produces an advantage as mentioned below:

The laminated film of claim 1 of this application is excellent in terms of mechanical strength and low coefficient of thermal expansion, as well as excellent in terms of display quality

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of an image display device (causing less light leakage in a black display mode). This advantage is never expected by Ito, which does not disclose even glass cloth, and Sadao, which does not pay attention to an angle of the weft and warp of glass cloth relative to the absorption axis of the polarizing plate.

Thus, Ito and Sadao fail to disclose the invention of claim 1. Furthermore, Ito and Sadao fail to provide any motivation to employ the new structural feature of claim 1. Therefore, the invention of claim 1 of this application is not obvious over the cited references and should not be rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claims 2-6 have the same technical features as those of claim 1 and therefore are not obvious over the cited references.

Conclusion

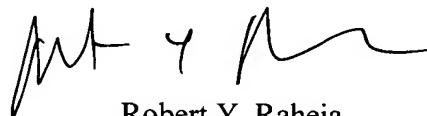
The claims have been shown to be allowable over the prior art. Applicants believe that this paper is responsive to each and every ground of rejection cited in the Office Action in the Action dated March 18, 2008, and respectfully request favorable action in this application. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicants' attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: A verified English language translation of Japanese priority application
No. 2003-377151